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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written submission by the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria*

Note by the Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Human Rights Council hereby transmits the communication submitted by the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria**, reproduced below in accordance with rule 7(b) of the rules of procedures described in the annex to Council resolution 5/1, according to which participation of national human rights institutions is to be based on arrangements and practices agreed upon by the Commission on Human Rights, including resolution 2005/74 of 20 April 2005.

* National human rights institution with "A" status accreditation from the Global Alliance of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

** Reproduced in the annex as received, in the language of submission only.

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Annex

[English only]

Submission by the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria

Agenda Item 3. Cluster ID: Statement on the report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons follow-up mission to Nigeria

The violent activities of the insurgents/Terrorists group Boko Haram with it attendant human rights violations has resulted into serious humanitarian crises in the North East region of Nigeria.

Efforts by the Federal and State governments through the counter insurgency operation of the security forces has burdened Nigeria and its agencies a great deal in terms of human and material resources.

The report of the Special Rapporteur on IDPs under discussion and other reports capture some of the dire human rights and humanitarian challenges faced by the country particularly in the North East. The resultant deaths, displacement and destruction of properties have grave consequences on the rights of our people.

The efforts by Nigerian government in ensuring restoration of safety and addressing the humanitarian challenges faced by Nigeria in the North East though commendable, requires more support by all to sustain the gains so far recorded.

National Human Rights Commission intervention

The National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria understands that the military involvement in the internal counter insurgency operation presents a novel scenario/experience for the military which ordinarily, is trained on external armed conflict operations. This state of affairs necessitated the activation of the National Human Rights Commission's mandate for constructive engagement with the military through constant dialogue and trainings on human rights with a view to mainstream Human Rights into the operation of the military and other law enforcement personnel.

Protection monitoring by presence

Apart from training, the Commission has deployed Human Rights protection monitors to ensure that violations are monitored, documented and violators are held accountable.

The Commission has also launched human rights accountability project in the North East aimed at ensuring proper accountability for parties especially the security personnel and the civilian intervention Actors. This project is designed to address the human rights issues surrounding the involvement of the Civilian Joint Task Force.

In collaboration with UNDP, the Commission has also designed a project aimed at addressing access to justice needs of the affected population in the North East.

To address the challenge of missing and unaccounted persons as a result of the conflict, the Commission is working with other key stakeholders in and outside government with support from ICRC to put in place a national mechanism to address concerns and bring

closure to the anxiety of people who cannot account for the whereabout of their loved ones. This initiative has the full backing of the presidency.

Conclusion

It is our firm belief that with the recommended upscale in support by all stakeholders, particularly the International humanitarian and human rights actors as recommended by the special rapporteur, the current commitment of the Federal and State governments in Nigeria will go a long way in addressing the numerous challenges faced by not only the Internally Displaced Persons but also the host communities and other population of concern in North East region of Nigeria.

The National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria will continue to deliver on its mandate to everybody in Nigeria with particular focus on the interest and needs of all vulnerable groups in the country.

The Commission shall remain committed to carry out its mandate within the ambit of our statutory independence and international standards particularly as envisaged by the Paris Principles.